

VASQUEZ GOMEZ BECOMES PROVISIONAL MEXICAN PRESIDENT

NO THOUGHT IN MIND OF U. S. OFFICIALS OF WAR ON MEXICO

HUNDREDS ARE MAROONED IN HOMES

JUAREZ CUSTOM HOUSE PROVISIONAL CAPITOL

GOOD BEHAVIOR BY FORCE WRONG

MEXICAN REBEL LEADER ARRIVES FROM SAN ANTONIO AND SLEEPS OVER TO JUAREZ

War Department Making Preparations For Eventualities, but President and All His Advisors See No Cause For Intervention Up to the Present—In Fact, They Are Fully Satisfied With All That Has Happened in Mexico.

(By H. D. SLATER.)

Washington, D. C., May 4.—With the exception of the war department, official Washington unanimously resists every suggestion of any armed demonstration toward Mexico, provided some condition does not arise in future, a great deal worse than anything existing now or in the past. There cannot be found in congress more than half a dozen who admit that they seriously entertain the thought of an armed demonstration, while nearly every member of both houses privately and publicly dismisses every suggestion of the sort as idle sensationalism or political buncombe.

TAFT FIRMLY OPPOSES INTERVENTION.

The president is well known to be most firmly opposed to any drastic action and, while some prominent public men believe the president will allow himself to be driven into a war for partisan political advantage, nevertheless others who know the president well, including many strong political opponents, maintain that Taft will never allow his conduct in such a grave matter to be so influenced even if inaction should mean his certain defeat for reelection.

The state department is very well satisfied with itself and indeed proud of its record in the Mexican matter. Some subordinate officials privately admit that some mistakes have been made, but on the whole, the state department is disposed to resent vigorously every criticism and it is certain that the course of that department has the full approval of the president in all details, and of most of the cabinet.

ADMINISTRATION DEFENDS ITS COURSE.

The administration has implicit confidence in ambassador Wilson and defends the consular force without reservation in all it has done and has failed to do. The administration maintains that it has exerted itself to the utmost extent at all times to avoid any cause of international differences, and that even if in some special cases individuals have seemed to be slightly neglected, nevertheless, the department maintains that in the long run its policy has made for peace and that American lives and property in Mexico are today better than the interests of any other nation. The administration will not admit that a single misstep has been made but, on the contrary, it is exceedingly proud of itself and cocksure it is a marvel of diplomatic efficiency.

WAR DEPARTMENT IS ACTIVE.

The war department is paid to prepare for war and it is busily engaged in getting ready. The army fully believes it will have to go to Mexico, but the wish is father to the thought. The army likes to be active and promotions come more rapidly in war time. Practically all the talk and rumor of an armed demonstration in Mexico on the border originates in the war department, and they have just enough basis of fact to make them plausible.

It is true that militia officers of the states have been consulting with the secretary of war.

It is true that the militia act has been amended to provide for the president taking the militia bodily into the army for foreign service if necessary.

It is true that great reserve stores of ammunition and arms are being accumulated at depots.

It is true that preparations are making to move some of the western and southwestern militia infantry.

NO POSSIBILITY NOW OF INVASION.

These and many other details of army activity are true and yet they do not mean an invasion of Mexico, but only precaution and wise forethought. If occasion should arise, the war department wants to be able to throw two hundred thousand men into the field in three to five days all thoroughly organized, disciplined, armed men, equipped and serving under their own officers, with only staff officers from the regular army to assist in carrying out the plans of the general staff, but all this preparation does not mean a movement towards Mexico, and, while it would be folly to neglect due precaution, still there is absolutely no idea at present of taking any drastic action in the Mexican matter; in fact as time passes the likelihood of intervention steadily grows less and on the highest authority it may be confidently asserted that nothing has occurred up to this time to provoke the American government to armed demonstrations.

If there should be such a demonstration in future or an invasion of Mexican territory, it would have to arise as the consequence of some outrage perpetrated after this date.

MEXICO MAY BE SURE OF NON-INTERFERENCE.

The administration will pursue a policy of hands off, hoping that not only Madero, Orozco, Zapata and other recognized leaders will enforce the guaranties but also that even bandits and unorganized rebels will respect Americans and make it possible for the United States to remain as now, an interested, but friendly and neutral spectator.

Mexico may therefore feel absolutely assured of freedom from interference unless something should occur hereafter that would make it imperative for the United States temporarily to take a hand in the situation. Should an invasion become necessary at any future time, it would only be for remedying a local condition such as the relief of a besieged foreign colony at some particular point. There would be no general movement of troops or ships unless the Mexicans by unwise resistance to a wholly peaceable, friendly and humane effort to avoid tragedy, should make larger operations necessary. No military movement outside of our national boundary would be made without express direction of congress.

CONGRESS WILL NOT ACT INADVISABLY.

Congress will not act without suggestion and information by the president and that the president should reverse his present fixed policy is wholly inconceivable unless Mexico, by some new and terrible offence or dereliction of duty under the rules of civilization, should inflame the American people and compel a total change of attitude.

At present there is absolutely no antagonistic sentiment against Mexico, discernible anywhere and absolutely no intention to intervene as a result of any past happenings or existing conditions.

High Water Record Broken at New Orleans—Many Refugees Leaving Country.

ARMY REACHES LIMIT IN RELIEF WORK

New Orleans, La., May 4.—Flood conditions in the lower Mississippi valley continue today to grow worse. No one, not even those who have dealt with similar problems will forecast the outcome of the passing of the greatest volume of water ever recorded in the great stream. At New Orleans today the former record was broken almost a foot. The water at Turas, La., is pouring through a levee crevasse with an ever-widening gap and another breach is threatening.

Flood Water Traveling Rapidly. Reports from the inundated section north of New Orleans are of a gloomy character. The flood water is traveling at a rapid rate towards the Atchafalaya river and is nearing the main line of the Texas and Pacific railroad.

A telephone message from Lettsworth early today said the town was deep under water and hundreds of persons in the surrounding country are marooned in their homes, in cotton gin houses and on house-tops.

Many Refugees Leaving Country. A special train arrived at New Orleans last night with several hundred refugees from the deluged country.

A relief expedition arrived at Fischeles, last night with a large number of victims who were on the verge of starvation.

Conditions at Baton Rouge are hourly growing more menacing. A force of 1000 men worked all night, aided by searchlights on steamers, trying to prevent a break directly in front of that city.

Another large force was engaged in clearing up the gaps in the protection embankment just.

Rouge, where it is hoped to prevent the waters from finding their way to the rich sugar lands in the Pointechartrain district in the event the right to save the main levee is lost. Baton Rouge is built on a bluff and a crevasse there would not do serious damage except to the wholesale section.

Town Under Ten Feet of Water. Bayou Sara, where a break occurred yesterday, is today under water 10 to 25 feet deep.

Much Suffering On Black River. Vicksburg, Miss., May 4.—There has been much suffering among the flood refugees of the Black River district in Louisiana.

This time there has been comparatively little disaster in the evacuation camps, but last night there was a row in a white refugee camp here. Four white men got into a dispute.

(Continued on Page 7.)

Judge Robert W. Archbald Accused of Using Office to Get Railroad Favors.

PAPERS BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Washington, D. C., May 4.—President Taft, in a message to the house in response to the Norris resolution asking for the papers in the case of Judge Robert W. Archbald of the commerce court, charged with having used his public office to procure favors from railroads, said it was not compatible with the public interest to make all the papers public at this time. He said they had been sent to the judiciary committee of the house for such further investigation as it might desire to make. It will rest with this committee whether or not to impeach proceedings shall be begun.

Attorney General Active. Attorney General Wickham today sent to the house judiciary committee the result of his investigation of charges that Judge Robert W. Archbald of the commerce court had used his office to obtain favors from railroads.

The good, recommends further investigation as to whether or not impeachment proceedings shall be begun.

One of the specific allegations made against Judge Archbald, it is said, is that he was interested in the proposed purchase of Culin banks owned by a coal company controlled by the Erie railroad. It is asserted that these piles of refuse coal were to be bought for a comparatively small sum and sold at a profit of \$25,000 to \$40,000, of which it is charged, Judge Archbald would receive one-third.

Attorney General to Investigate. The charges, it is said, were preferred in connection with an interstate commerce case by William Boland of Scranton, Pa. Because of their seriousness,

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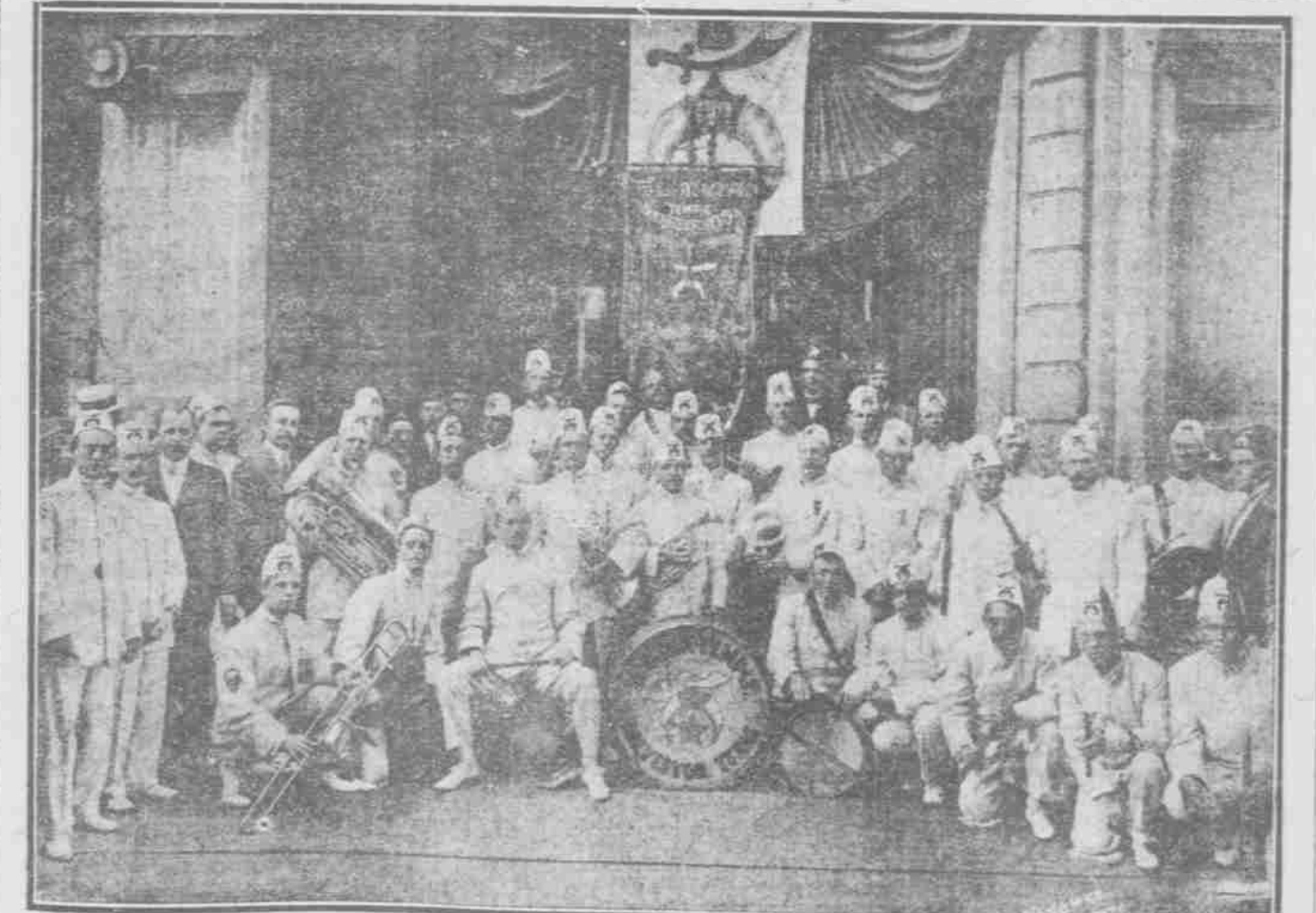
WESTERN UNION LEASES SOUTHWESTERN WIRES

Under lease, the Western Union Telegraph company will take over the wires of the El Paso & Southwestern system on July 1, when the present lease of the Mackay-Bennett (Postal) company expires.

The lease includes about 900 miles of wire, extending from El Paso north to Tucuman and Dawson, and west to Douglas, Bisbee, Naco and Benson; when the Southwestern is completed to Tucson, the lease will extend to that city.

The Postal has been operating these wires since they were first strung. The Western Union's lease of these lines takes away all the Postal wires out of El Paso except its line to Denver through Las Cruces and Albuquerque, and a short branch over to Silver City.

Galveston Shrine Band Plays For El Paso



Texas Shrine Delegation Passing Through En Route to Los Angeles.

El Paso will have two concerts going at the same time this afternoon. The South Texas Shrine delegation en route to Los Angeles will arrive at 3:40, and according to plans, will remain an hour while El Mina Shrine band, of Galveston, gives a concert in Pioneer plaza. The Shrine are to be met at the station by the Fourth cavalry band from Fort Bliss, and this band will beginning at 4 o'clock, play in Cleveland square for the Maypole dance by the children.

The Galveston Austin and San Antonio Shrines are traveling on a special train, headed by El Mina band from Galveston. The Shrines are to parade from the union station to San Jacinto square, and while their band plays a concert, the visiting and local Shrine organizations of the El Paso city. El Mina shrine of Galveston has with it numerous clubs, for instance the Texas club, patriotic club of which is the most in the district all year bathing beach on the Gulf of Mexico and in the southland.

The band of the El Mina temple met San Antonio and Austin delegates in a special train de luxe, they are touring to the Imperial council meeting at Los Angeles.

Numerous honors have been conferred upon this Galveston musical organization such as the winning of the second prize at the Imperial meeting at New Orleans two years ago. In this contest participated the Shrine bands of North America. El Mina band is composed only of prominent business men of Galveston. At the Los Angeles convention form part of the bodyguard of the Imperial potentate.

Through its many trips to the Imperial shrine meetings, the Galveston prominence has developed considerable prestige and incidentally no little praise.

At Galveston the Shrines' organization was organized in 1902, and has had some remarkable success in its growth and development, as one of the live and virile organizations of the United States. El Mina shrine of Galveston has with it numerous clubs, for instance the Texas club, patriotic club of which is the most in the district all year bathing beach on the Gulf of Mexico and in the southland.

The fishing club is the largest numerically, and during the fishing season devotes almost the entire after time to catching the finny tribe, which abounds so abundantly and so conveniently in the waters of Galveston bay and along Galveston beach.

The automobile club has several amateur speed demons. They own their own automobiles and devote considerable time and attention in attempts to lower the world's record made by a prominent and dare-devil driver during the cotton carnival last year.

The "Fishing club" keeps in touch with the excellent system of schools, series and hospitals in the city of Galveston.

The officers of El Mina band are: President, George M. Courtis; manager, Dr. D. H. Lawrence; vice president, H. C. Oppermann; secretary, Clint M. Wolston; treasurer, A. L. Pierzon.

The personnel of El Mina band follows: Dr. D. H. Lawrence, Paul A. Nascikel, Emil Kellner, L. E. Kelsey, H. E. Baxter, Louis Cox, Henry Lebbe, C. G. William, Clint M. Wolston, C. J. Oslery, E. M. Venable, A. Schaefer, W. W. Tild, William Evans, R. B. Lindb, Dr. J. S. Jones, E. C. Brock, Louis Schneider, William Erwin, Joseph Benson, Emma Ehrlich, J. H. Bloomer, L. C. Reinick, E. T. Williams, J. H. Munster, Arthur Schneider, W. A. Shaw, N. B. Saunders, W. L. Phaxton, and W. M. Brown.

So Declares Resolution Before Methodist Conference; Rules Will Be Changed.

WARNINGS INSTEAD OF RULES TO GOVERN

Minneapolis, Minn., May 4.—An emphatic demand that the Methodist Episcopal church abandon its anti-entertainment rules was made in a resolution offered at the general conference today by Benjamin Edsall, of Newark, N. J. It was referred to a committee. It declared "that compulsory good behavior is not the essence of religion," and that the present rule is ineffective.

The resolution reads: "That section 256, of the discipline, be amended by striking therefrom the words, 'dancing, playing at games of chance, attending theaters, horse racing, circuses, dancing parties or patronizing dancing schools, or taking such other amusements as are obviously of misleading or questionable moral tendency.' To show that the church would not stand in the position of favoring these forms of amusement, the resolution reiterated from the church's 'special advice' the following:

Solemn Voice of Warning. "We lift up a solemn voice of warning and entreaty particularly against theater-going, dancing and such games of chance as are frequently associated with gambling, all of which have been found to be antagonistic to vital piety, promotive of worldliness, and especially pernicious to youth."

To Investigate Editors. Martin Campbell, of South Bend, Ind., offered a resolution asking that the 29 editors and publishers of the church publications be investigated by a special committee as to their qualifications before their selection and that their election be not left to a vote of the conference, 50 percent of whose members

(Continued on Page 7.)

Gen. Orozco Sends For Him to Come and Take the Presidency and Sends a Message Confirming His Appointment After He Reaches Juarez—Two Cabinet Officers Are Named, Pascual Orozco's Father Being Made Minister of War.

Emilio Vasquez Gomez has been proclaimed provisional president of Mexico by the rebel army. He assumed the duties of the office at noon Saturday, May 4, and established himself in the Juarez custom house, where a year ago—May 10, 1911—Francisco I. Madero, present president of Mexico, set up his provisional capital, from which he conducted the negotiations that led to the resignation of Gen. Porfirio Diaz as president of Mexico.

Gomez arrived silently and mysteriously from San Antonio Friday evening, and, after detention at the El Paso police station for a time, he spent the night in a cheap rooming house and slipped over to Juarez shortly before noon Saturday.

He was met at the bridge by a delegation of rebel officials and escorted to the custom house, where it was given out that he was to be held a prisoner pending the receipt of information from Gen. Orozco. Shortly after noon, however, it was announced that Gomez had become the provisional president of Mexico and telegrams were exhibited from Gen. Orozco confirming the appointment. Then announcement was made that Gomez had come here from San Antonio, in response to an invitation tendered him by Orozco on April 24, to establish his capital in Chihuahua state.

Gomez at once announced the appointment of Col. Pascual Orozco, father of the rebel generalissimo, as acting minister of war. Lic. Moreno Canton, of Yucatan, was named minister of foreign affairs, after Francisco Pradillo, of Juarez, had refused the post. The provisional president declared that he would name the rest of his cabinet during the afternoon or evening. Whether he would retain the provisional capital at Juarez or remove it to Chihuahua, he was not certain, he said, although Gen. Orozco had invited him to come to Chihuahua and establish his capital.

The establishing of the provisional capital in Juarez makes four times that a Mexican president or provisional president has had his headquarters there. Benito Juarez made it his capital while rallying his army to repulse Maximilian; Porfirio Diaz made it his capital for two days in September, 1909; Francisco I. Madero, as provisional president of Mexico, established his capital there on May 10, 1911, and Emilio Vasquez Gomez established himself there as provisional president on May 4, 1912.

Emilio Vasquez Gomez was formally appointed provisional president of Mexico, in Juarez at 12 o'clock Saturday by Francisco Pradillo, acting as special envoy from Gen. Pascual Orozco, and the appointment was sanctioned by telegraph a short time later by Gen. Pascual Orozco, who is at present with the troops in the south. Vasquez Gomez, who has been in San Antonio for several months, a political refugee from Mexico, came to El Paso late Friday night on the G. H. and Saturday morning went to Juarez, eluding the United States officers, who have been watching him for several months.

As soon as he arrived in Juarez, he presented himself to the officers of the town and was presented to Mr. Pradillo, who is acting as military chief of the town in the absence of Col. Pascual Orozco. Vasquez Gomez was then proclaimed by Mr. Pradillo, acting on papers giving him the power, as provisional president. The power was then used by Gen. Pascual Orozco. The appointment names Gomez as provisional president of Mexico to act until the elections should be called after the close of the revolution.

After the appointment Gen. Orozco was immediately notified by telegraph of Mr. Pradillo's action and the acceptance of the position by Judge Vasquez Gomez and Orozco replied that he would accept Vasquez Gomez as the provisional president, and extended his best wishes to the new leader and asked him to come to Chihuahua at his earliest convenience to meet him. Lawyer Robles, a prominent member of Gen. Orozco's advisory staff, also telegraphed congratulating Gomez.

Asked by Orozco to Come. The appointment of Vasquez Gomez as provisional president of Mexico was done for the purpose of obtaining legitimacy for the rebel cause from the United States government, if possible. It was decided a few days ago that it was only through this course that the United States would recognize the rebels. As a result Francisco R. Pradillo was appointed a special envoy to Vasquez Gomez, to offer him the provisional presidency. On April 24 he went to San Antonio and delivered the

Statement Of the "President"

"I came to Juarez," said provisional president Vasquez Gomez, while at the custom house annex, where he is stopping with Mr. Pradillo, "to assume the provisional presidency of the United States of Mexico with the object of establishing peace throughout the country, through the success of the revolution. In the capacity of provisional president of the republic I wish to send a warm and sincere salutation to the whole world and I will not entirely to the best of judgment and independently and wish to show my good will towards the Mexican people.

"I will at once take up my duties and for the present Juarez will be my headquarters and the provisional capital of Mexico. Later I will go, possibly to Chihuahua or, anyway, await developments, as we have not had time to formulate any plans for the future.

"At present I am studying the men suitable as members of my cabinet, which will be appointed in a day or two, as soon as the men can be chosen. As yet none of the cabinet members can be made known to the public. I will not have a provisional vice president, at least according to our present plans."

Following message from Gen. Pascual Orozco to Vasquez Gomez: "Chihuahua, Chl. Mex., April 24, 1912.—Judge Emilio Vasquez Gomez, San Antonio, Tex.

"Dear Sir:—This is to inform you that I have appointed you as provisional president of Mexico, with full and complete powers to invite you to take charge of the provisional presidency of the republic, understanding that I make the offering as the chief of the revolution. I hope that comprehending the noble reason existing for the immediate declaration of our political leader and, therefore, wish you to come to Chihuahua and establish your capital."

(Continued on page two.)